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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) An information compression apparatus which compresses information and uses a DCT frequency conversion algorithm, comprising:

a plurality of block registers which store block-based multi-bit quantized data converted from ~~[[the]]~~ information output from ~~[[an]]~~ a quantization execution module;

a correction level register which presets a correction level indicating a degree of data correction;

a first control mechanism which controls operations of said apparatus so as to perform a scanning operation for scanning ~~each block of~~ the plurality of block registers in a scan order and a search operation for searching ~~[[a]]~~ each block in the scan, having according to said scan order, for a valid coefficient; and

a data correction mechanism ~~which corrects data~~ configured to modify the valid coefficient, found in the search operation, of the block searched by the first control mechanism to an invalid coefficient based on the correction level ~~started~~ preset in the correction level register.

2. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the valid coefficient is a coefficient having any coding amount except zero.

3. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the

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scanning operation includes an inverse zigzag operation.

4. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a second control device ~~which receives~~ configured to receive the multi-bit quantized data output from the quantized execution module before the multi-bit quantized data is transmitted to the plurality of block registers, and after said second control device receives the multi-bit quantized data, cause ~~causes~~ the first control mechanism to start the search operation.

5. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the data correction device mechanism moves ~~addresses of~~ an isolated valid coefficient ~~searched instead of modifying the valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient that is at a first address not adjacent to another address containing a valid coefficient, to a second address that is adjacent to said another address containing a valid coefficient,~~ when modifying the valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient based on the correction level causes ~~[[the]]~~ information deterioration to an extent exceeding a predetermined limit ~~so that the isolated valid coefficients are consecutively arranged.~~

6. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a block register net ~~which comprises~~ configured to perform a plurality of logical OR circuits ~~corresponding to a plurality of frequencies used by the DCT frequency conversion algorithm~~ to the coefficients in the block registers connected thereto such that ~~each of the plurality of logical OR circuits outputs 1~~ is output when any one of the block registers

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connected thereto has a valid coefficient, and wherein the first control mechanism cancels its scanning operation.

7. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein said apparatus comprises a plurality of said block register net, and a number of the plurality of logical OR circuits block register nets is equal to a number of the plurality of frequencies used by the DCT frequency conversion algorithm.

8. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim [[6]] 7, wherein when a quantization table for quantizing the plurality of block coefficients stored in registers is relatively large, the plurality of logical OR circuits plural block register nets for a high frequency side are connected to each other and a logical OR is performed for the plural block register nets.

9. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the apparatus uses a Huffman coding method.

10. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the apparatus uses a JPEG coding method.

11. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the apparatus uses a sound data coding method.

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12. (currently amended) An information compression apparatus which compresses information and uses a DCT frequency conversion algorithm, comprising:

a plurality of block register means for storing block-based multi-bit quantized data converted from the information output from [[an]] a quantization execution module means;

a correction level register means for presetting a correction level indicating a degree of data correction;

a first control means for controlling operations of said apparatus so as to perform a scanning operation for scanning ~~each block of~~ the plurality of block register means in a scan order and a search operation for searching [[a]] each block in the scan, having according to said scan order, for a valid coefficient; and

a data correction means for ~~correcting data to modify~~ modifying the valid coefficient, found in the search operation, of the block searched by the first control mechanism to an invalid coefficient based on the correction level started preset in the correction level register means.

13. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the valid coefficient is a coefficient having any coding amount except 0.

14. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the scanning operation includes an inverse zigzag operation.

15. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12,

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further comprising a second control means for receiving the multi-bit quantized data output from the quantized execution module means before the multi-bit quantized data is transmitted to the plurality of block register means, and after said second control device receives the multi-bit quantized data, causing the first control means to start the search operation.

16. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the data correction means moves ~~addresses of~~ an isolated valid coefficient ~~searched instead of modifying the valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient that is at a first address not adjacent to another address containing a valid coefficient, to a second address that is adjacent to said another address containing a valid coefficient,~~ when modifying the valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient based on the correction level causes ~~[(the)]~~ information deterioration to an extent exceeding a predetermined limit ~~so that the isolated valid coefficients are consecutively arranged.~~

17. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, further comprising a block register net means for ~~comprising~~ performing a ~~plurality of~~ logical OR circuit means ~~corresponding to a plurality of frequencies used by the DCT frequency conversion algorithm such that each of the plurality of logical OR circuit means outputs to the coefficients in the block registers connected thereto such that 1 is output~~ when any one of the block register means connected thereto has a valid coefficient, and wherein the first control means cancels its scanning operation.

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18. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein said apparatus comprises a plurality of said block register net means, and a number of the plurality of logical OR circuit block register nets means is equal to a number of the plurality of frequencies used by the DCT frequency conversion algorithm.

19. (currently amended) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein when a quantization table for quantizing the plurality of block coefficients stored in register means is relatively large, the plurality of logical OR circuit plural block register net means for a high frequency side are connected to each other and a logical OR is performed for the plural block register net means.

20. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the apparatus uses a Huffman coding method.

21. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the apparatus uses a JPEG coding method.

22. (original) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the apparatus uses a sound data coding method.

23. (currently amended) An information compression method for compressing information and using a DCT frequency conversion algorithm, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) presetting a predetermined correction level indicating a degree of data correction;
- (b) latching quantized data including valid coefficients and invalid coefficients into a block register;
- (c) performing an inverse zigzag scan for scanning the block register to search [[a]] said quantized data latched in said block register in step (b) to find one or more valid coefficient coefficients;
- (d) modifying ~~an initially searched~~ a valid coefficient found in step (c), to an invalid coefficient;
- (e) counting a number of ~~searched~~ said valid coefficients found in step (c);
- (f) searching for and finding another valid coefficient, and modifying a ~~subsequent searched said another~~ valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient;
- (g) incrementing by one the number of valid coefficients ~~by one~~ counted in step (e);
- (h) ~~continuously performing continuing~~ the inverse zigzag scan to search for additional valid coefficients, when the number of ~~searched valid~~ coefficients ~~counted in the counting step~~ is smaller than the ~~collection~~ correction level in ~~the presetting step (a)~~; and
- (i) transferring the data of the block register to a coding module when the ~~correction counter value~~ number of valid coefficients reaches the correction level.

24. (currently amended) The information compression method as defined in claim 23, wherein ~~when a valid coefficient is modified to an invalid coefficient in the modifying steps (d) and (f)~~, valid coefficients smaller than a predetermined threshold value are ~~deleted~~ modified to an invalid coefficient.

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25. (currently amended) The information compression method as defined in claim 23, further comprising a presearching step for searching the quantized data ~~output from the quantization-execution module~~ before the search step (c).

26. (currently amended) The information compression method as defined in claim 23, further comprising an address moving step for moving addresses of isolated valid coefficients searched such that the isolated valid coefficients are ~~consecutively~~ arranged in corresponding adjacent addresses when the information deterioration to an extent exceeds a predetermined limit in the modifying steps, and wherein ~~the modifying steps~~ (d) and (f) are canceled instead.

27. (currently amended) The information compression method as defined in claim 23, further comprising a calculating step for calculating a total sum of coefficients of block registers arranged along each scanning line corresponding to one of different frequencies used in the DCT frequency conversion algorithm, ~~and a start address changing step for changing an address of the block register to start the inverse zigzag scan.~~

28. (currently amended) The information compression method as defined in claim 27, further comprising a summing up step for summing up a plurality of the total sums ~~calculating~~ calculated by said calculating step ~~to execute code calculation at an appropriate part of the block register.~~

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29. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of an information compression causing a computer to execute an information compression operation using a DCT frequency conversion algorithm according to a method comprising the steps of:

- (a) presetting a predetermined correction level indicating a degree of data correction;
- (b) latching quantized data including valid coefficients and invalid coefficients into a block register;
- (c) performing an inverse zigzag scan for scanning the block register to search ~~[[a]]~~ said quantized data latched in said block register in step (b) to find one or more valid coefficient coefficients;
- (d) modifying ~~an initially searched~~ a valid coefficient found in step (c), to an invalid coefficient;
- (e) counting a number of ~~searched~~ said valid coefficients found in step (c);
- (f) searching for and finding another valid coefficient, and modifying ~~a subsequent searched said another~~ valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient;
- (g) incrementing by one the number of valid coefficients ~~by one~~ counted in step (e);
- (h) ~~continuously performing continuing~~ the inverse zigzag scan to search for additional valid coefficients, when the number of ~~searched valid~~ coefficients counted in the counting step is smaller than the ~~collection~~ correction level in the ~~presetting~~ step (a); and
- (i) transferring the data of the block register to a coding module when the ~~correction counter-value~~ number of valid coefficients reaches the correction level.

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30. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium tangibly embodying the program of an information compression as defined in claim 29, wherein ~~when a valid coefficient is modified to an invalid coefficient in the modifying steps (d) and (f), valid coefficients smaller than a predetermined threshold value are deleted~~ modified to an invalid coefficient.

31. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium tangibly embodying the program of an information compression as defined in claim 29, further comprising a presearching step for searching the quantized data ~~output from the quantization execution module before the search step (c).~~

32. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium tangibly embodying the program of an information compression as defined in claim 29, further comprising an address moving step for moving addresses of isolated valid coefficients searched such that the isolated valid coefficients are ~~consecutively~~ arranged in corresponding adjacent addresses when the information deterioration to an extent exceeds a predetermined limit in the modifying steps, and wherein ~~the modifying steps (d) and (f) are canceled instead.~~

33. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium tangibly embodying the program of an information compression as defined in claim 29, further comprising a calculating step for calculating a total sum of coefficients of block registers arranged along each scanning line corresponding to one of different frequencies used in the DCT frequency conversion algorithm, ~~and a start address changing step for changing an address of the block register to start~~

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~~the inverse zigzag scan.~~

34. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium tangibly embodying the program of an information compression ~~method~~ as defined in claim 33, further comprising a summing up step for summing up a plurality of the total sums calculating by calculating step to execute code calculation at an appropriate part of the block register.

35. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of an information compression causing a computer using a JPEG coding method to execute an information compression operation according to a method comprising the steps of:

- (a) presetting a predetermined correction level indicating a degree of data correction;
- (b) latching quantized data including valid coefficients and invalid coefficients into a block register;
- (c) performing an inverse zigzag scan for scanning the block register to search [[a]] said quantized data latched in said block register in step (b) to find one or more valid coefficient coefficients;
- (d) ~~modifying an initially searched~~ a valid coefficient found in step (c), to an invalid coefficient;
- (e) counting a number of ~~searched~~ said valid coefficients found in step (c);
- (f) searching for and finding another valid coefficient, and modifying a subsequent ~~searched said another~~ valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient;
- (g) incrementing by one the number of valid coefficients ~~by one~~ counted in step (e);

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(h) ~~continuously performing continuing~~ the inverse zigzag scan to search for additional valid coefficients, when the number of ~~searched~~ valid coefficients ~~counted in the counting step~~ is smaller than the ~~collection~~ correction level in the ~~presetting~~ step (a); and

(i) transferring the data of the block register to a coding module when the ~~correction counter value~~ number of valid coefficients reaches the correction level.

36. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium tangibly embodying a program of an information compression causing a computer using a sound data coding method to execute an information compression operation according to a method comprising the steps of:

(a) presetting a predetermined correction level indicating a degree of data correction;

(b) latching quantized data including valid coefficients and invalid coefficients into a block register;

(c) performing an inverse zigzag scan for scanning the block register to search [[a]] said quantized data latched in said block register in step (b) to find one or more valid coefficient coefficients;

(d) modifying ~~an initially searched~~ a valid coefficient found in step (c), to an invalid coefficient;

(e) counting a number of ~~searched~~ said valid coefficients found in step (c);

(f) searching for and finding another valid coefficient, and modifying ~~a subsequent searched said another~~ valid coefficient to the invalid coefficient;

(g) incrementing by one the number of valid coefficients ~~by one~~ counted in step (e);

(h) ~~continuously performing continuing~~ the inverse zigzag scan to search for additional

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valid coefficients, when the number of ~~searched~~ valid coefficients ~~counted in the counting step~~ is smaller than the ~~collection~~ correction level in the ~~presetting~~ step (a); and

(i) transferring the data of the block register to a coding module when the ~~correction counter value~~ number of valid coefficients reaches the correction level.

Claim 37 (canceled).

38. (new) The information compression apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said correction level preset by said correction level register corresponds to a number of data corrections, and valid coefficients in said quantized data stored in said plurality of block registers are modified to invalid coefficients until the number of modifications reaches the correction level preset in the correction level register.